

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is being provided in response to the April 22, 2005 Final Office Action for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicant has canceled Claims 9-11, 51, 71, 89, 90, and 94-100, and amended Claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 50, 64, 65, 67, 74, 75, 83-87, and 91-93 in order to clarify that which Applicant deems to be the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims are all supported by the originally filed application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview with Applicant's representative, Ms. Saturnelli, on September 20, 2005 in which claim amendments made herein to the pending independent claims were discussed with the Examiner. In the interview, the Examiner indicated that Applicant should make the amendments set forth herein to the independent claims which Applicant believes are patentable over the cited art so that they may be fully considered after any additional searching is performed by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully traverses all the rejections set forth in the current Office Action as applied to all pending claims herein. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all rejections in light of the amendments made herein.

Applicant's Claim 1, as amended herein, recites a computer implemented method comprising: receiving data representing a visual form of data, the data received comprising content data and format data indicating the manner in which the content data is to be visually represented, wherein said format data is applied to said content data to produce said visual form of data, said visual form of data corresponding to one of a print format or a display format;

analyzing said visual form of data using a template and identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with said template after applying said format data to said content data to produce said visual form of data, wherein said content data and said format data are different from said template, said visual form of data being characterized by a plurality of dimensions represented using a coordinate system, said template including at least one extraction instruction used in identifying a location of a string included in said content data, said location being represented using the coordinate system and corresponding to the string's location in the visual form of data, said extraction instruction including information with respect to a reference marker and a direction in one of the plurality of dimensions where identifying at least some of the content data includes searching in the direction for identifying at least some of the content data in the direction; and storing the identified content data. Applicant's independent Claims 17-19, 25-27, 50, 67, 87, 92 and 93, as amended herein, recite similar features as set forth in Claim 1.

As discussed in the interview and described throughout the specification, Applicant's claimed invention operates on the visual form of data corresponding to one of a print format or a display format. (See, for example, specification page 1, lines 22-23, page 7, lines 24-25). The visual form of data may be represented using content data and format data. (See, for example, specification page 8, lines 3-13). A template is a collection of one or more extraction instructions for extracting data from a report. An extraction instruction is one or more commands or criteria for selecting and extracting content data (with or without associated format data) from a data file storing data representing a visual form of the data. Templates may store instructions for retrieving data based on visual aspects of generated reports. Such visual aspects may include the location of the data within a report or within a selected portion of the report. The instructions may, for example, indicate the general direction of a desired data compared to a

selected reference marker in the report. (See, for example, specification page 8, lines 14-25). The visual form of data may be characterized by a plurality of dimensions characterized by a coordinate system and the extraction instruction may include information indicating location of the desired data based on the coordinate system. The visual form of data may be characterized by a plurality of dimensions and the extraction instruction may include information with respect to location of a reference marker and a direction in one of the plurality of dimensions where identifying at least some of the content data includes searching in the direction for identifying at least some of the content data in the direction. (See, for example, page 3, lines 18-26).

Applicant's Claim 1, as amended herein, is not disclosed or suggested by any of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, used in any claim rejections set forth in the Office Action in that the references neither disclose nor suggest at least the features of *a computer implemented method comprising: receiving data representing a visual form of data ... , said visual form of data corresponding to one of a print format or a display format; analyzing said visual form of data using a template and identifying at least some of the content data in accordance with said template ... said visual form of data being characterized by a plurality of dimensions represented using a coordinate system, said template including at least one extraction instruction used in identifying a location of a string included in said content data, said location being represented using the coordinate system and corresponding to the string's location in the visual form of data, said extraction instruction including information with respect to a reference marker and a direction in one of the plurality of dimensions where identifying at least some of the content data includes searching in the direction for identifying at least some of the content data in the direction*, as set forth in Claim 1. Applicant respectfully

submits that the references all appear silent regarding any disclosure or suggestion of the foregoing recited features of amended Claim 1.

de Hilster (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,939) is directed to a system for facilitating the accurate transfer of information from a source data stream to a highly structured database and more particularly to such systems capable of accepting nonuniformly formatted documents and for extracting information therefrom via a procedure which includes user participation to assure the transfer of appropriate entries into the database. (Col. 1, Lines 34-44).

Stiegemeier (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,381) discloses a data management system user interface that allows users to enter, store, retrieve, and display multiple, related groups of information in a single document. The interface loads document data into a separate template which defines various fields, and the interface determines that should be displayed based on the information entered by the user. The interface also contains data validation and error correction feature that provides automatic correction, prompts for manual correction and allows the user to save a document with a list of errors for future correction at a later date. (See Abstract; Col. 1, Lines 11-17). The system retrieves a document that may optionally include a code identifying a template that provides the format for displaying the data. If the template resides in memory, or if the template is loaded into active memory, the system may access the document, extract the data from the document, format the data in accordance with the template instructions and the client script program, and display the data in the format as instructed by the template. (Col. 10, Lines 31-57; Figures 3 and 4).

Graefe (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,342) characterized databases as being multidimensional based upon axes, such as time, local, category, and the like. (Col. 1, lines 35-60; Col. 2, Lines 10-25)

Ishikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,527) discloses extracting specific feature areas of a facial image and outputting accurate coordinate data for the extracted facial features. (See Abstract). Ishikawa relates to facial image processing techniques, and more specifically, an improved facial processing method and apparatus for generating feature coordinate information corresponding to characteristic parts of a facial image useful in facial morphing, identification and blending operations. (Col. 1, Lines 6-11).

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing references appear silent regarding any disclosure or suggestion of the foregoing recited features of Applicant's amended Claim 1.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, used in any claim rejections set forth in the Office Action appear to disclose or suggest at least the forgoing recited features of Applicant's amended Claim 1. Accordingly, none of cited references disclose or suggest amended Claim 1, or claims that depend therefrom.

Independent Claims 17-19, 25-27, 50, 67, 87, 92 and 93 recite features similar to those set forth regarding independent Claim 1. Thus, for reasons similar to those set forth regarding amended Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the amended independent Claims 17-19, 25-27, 50, 67, 87, 92 and 93, and claims that depend therefrom, are also patentable over all the cited references.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8604.

Respectfully submitted,
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